
	<b>LOS LUNAS POLICE DEPARTMENT</b>	
	OPERATIONS	NUMBER: OPR.01.01(G)
	EFFECTIVE DATE: October 31, 2011	
	SUBJECT: Foot Pursuits REVIEW DATE: July 20, 2015	
AMENDS/ SUPERSEDES:		NMSA:
NMMLEPSC STANDARDS: <hr/>		APPROVED BY CHIEF OF POLICE NAITHAN G. GURULE  Signature

## I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this order is to facilitate the safe apprehension of a suspect who flees on foot and to prevent officer and civilian injury.

## II. DEFINITIONS

Foot Pursuit: A situation in which a police officer on foot chases a suspect in an effort to detain or arrest that individual who he has reasonable suspicion to believe is about to commit, is committing, or has committed a crime and who is resisting apprehension by fleeing from the officer.

Suspect: Includes any individual who a police officer reasonably believes is about to commit, is committing, or has committed an offense or poses an immediate threat to the safety of civilians, other officers, or themselves.

## III. POLICY

Whenever an officer decides to engage, or continue to engage in a foot pursuit, a risk assessment should take place. The officer should evaluate the risk involved to themselves, to other officers, the suspect, and to the community versus what would be gained from pursuing the suspect.

## IV. FACTORS TO CONSIDER WHEN INITIATING A FOOT PURSUIT

- A. Whether the suspect is armed;
- B. The type of offense committed by the suspect;

- C. Location of pursuit: residential, commercial, school zone, highway, etc;
- D. Conditions of the structures: occupied, abandoned, or condemned;
- E. Weather and light conditions;
- F. The possibility of apprehending the suspect at a later date;
- G. Familiarity with area;
- H. Ability to transmit location of officer and suspect (radio coverage and dead spots); and
- I. Availability of backup officers to assist.

## **V. PURSUING OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITY**

- A. The decision to initiate or continue a foot pursuit requires weighing the need to apprehend the suspect against the degree of risk to which the officer and others are exposed as a result of the pursuit.
- B. As soon as possible, the pursuing officer will notify the dispatcher of the following:
  - a. Officer's identification;
  - b. Location;
  - c. Direction of travel;
  - d. Suspect description;
  - e. If suspect is armed with a weapon (type); and
  - f. Reason for the foot pursuit.
- C. When applicable, and if possible, the pursuing officer will coordinate with other officers to establish a perimeter in an attempt to contain the suspect.

## **VI. WHEN TO TERMINATE A FOOT PURSUIT**

- A. If ordered by a supervisor, officers will discontinue the foot

pursuit.

- B. If an officer believes that the danger to pursuing officers or the public outweighs the necessity for immediate apprehension of the suspect, officers will discontinue the foot pursuit.
- C. If the suspect's identity is known, and there is no perceived, immediate threat to the safety of the public or officers if the pursuit is discontinued, the pursuit may be terminated and the suspect arrested at a later time; or
- D. When the suspect's location is no longer known after reasonable efforts to locate him.

## **VII. SUPERVISOR'S ROLE**

- A. To monitor the foot pursuit and direct resources in an effort to safely apprehend the suspect; and
- B. To terminate the foot pursuit if he believes that the danger to pursuing officers or the public outweighs the necessity for immediate apprehension of the suspect.